



Dharmashastra
National Law University, Jabalpur



VIDHIMITRA: THE LEGAL AID CELL

— PRESENTS —

1st EDITION



NYAYATECH



A DIGITAL JUSTICE CONCLAVE

**“From Competition to Contribution—
Where Ideas Become Outcomes”**

10th-11th October, 2026

IN COLLABORATION WITH



**MADHYA PRADESH STATE LEGAL
SERVICES AUTHORITY (MPSLSA)**



ABOUT DNLU

Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur (M.P.), India is one of the leading and premier law institutes imparting legal education and research. The University was established in the year 2018 by Madhya Pradesh Dharmashastra National Law University Act 24 of 2018, with the object of advancing the cause of legal education and achieving excellence as a university for imparting value-based legal education. The university emphasizes advocacy skills with professional ethics by providing suitable simulation exercises. The Hon'ble Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court is the Chancellor of the University.



“सत्यम् वद । धर्मं चर ।”

"Speak the truth and practice conduct in accordance with dharma".

ABOUT VIDHIMITRA- THE LEGAL AID CELL



Vidhimitra is the Legal Aid Cell of Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur, established in 2018 to make the legal system and justice more accessible to the public and raise awareness about contemporary legal issues and citizens' rights. It provides free legal advice, facilitates connections with lawyers, and engages in outreach, especially in rural areas, to empower marginalized communities with legal knowledge and support. Through awareness drives, counselling, and community engagement, Vidhimitra fosters legal literacy and inclusive access to justice.

ABOUT NYAYATECH

NyayaTech is the blend of two ideas — Nyaya (Justice) and Technology.

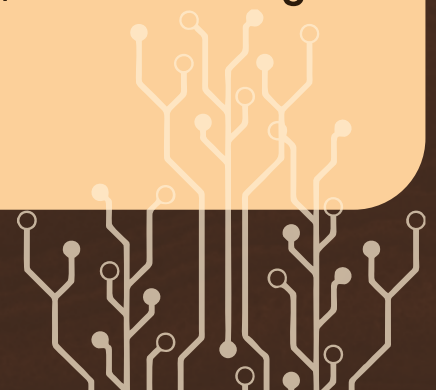
NyayaTech represents the evolving vision of justice in a world where courts, lawyers, and citizens increasingly rely on digital systems to resolve disputes and access legal support.

A digital justice system is not just about speed but also about access, inclusion, and fairness.

With this conclave, NyayaTech seeks to bridge the gap between law and technology, ensuring that innovation truly reaches those who need justice the most.

As future professionals in the legal fraternity, the foremost responsibility of every law student is to understand, question, and strengthen the systems through which justice is delivered. NyayaTech provides a platform to explore how technology can transform legal aid, public interest litigation, dispute resolution, and community access to legal services.

NyayaTech is an opportunity to redefine digital justice. It offers a space to engage, innovate, collaborate, and build solutions through interactive competitions, expert discussions, and meaningful dialogue.



OUR COLLABORATOR

MADHYA PRADESH STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY (MPSLSA)

The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 has been enacted to achieve the objectives of equal justice and free legal aid as enshrined in Article 39-A of the Constitution of India. Under the said Act, 1987 Legal Services Authorities provide Free & Competent Legal Services to the weaker section of society to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities and organize Lok-Adalats to secure the operation of legal system and promote Mediation and other activities. The Court based Legal Services are also provided which include activities such as representation before Court, Legal Aid and Advice and drafting of legal documents etc. Section-12 of Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provides certain categories of people who are eligible to get free legal aid & assistance. In that pursuant Madhya Pradesh State Legal Services Authority has been constituted. The said authority strives to ensure that constitutional pledge is fulfilled in its letter & spirit and equal justice is made available to the poor, downtrodden and marginalized section of society.



LIST OF EVENTS

Flagship Competitions

- Paper Presentation Competition
- Legal Aid App Development Competition
- Socio-Legal Challenge
- PIL Drafting Competition
- Lok Adalat Simulation

Knowledge & Dialogue Programmes

- Round Table Conference
- Panel Discussion by Experts

PAPER PRESENTATION COMPETITION

THEME: “Building an Inclusive Digital Justice System for New India”

SUGGESTED SUB-THEMES

(Indicative — participants may choose any related topic)

- Role of e-courts in improving access to justice
- Digital divide and exclusion in justice delivery
- Online Dispute Resolution (ODR): opportunities & risks
- Cyber law, privacy, and data protection in judicial systems
- AI in courts: ethics, accuracy, and accountability
- Technology-driven legal aid and community outreach
- Public interest litigation in the digital age
- Legal tech start-ups and innovations for justice delivery

(Participants may propose their own topic if aligned with the main theme.)

COMPETITION FORMAT

Preliminary Round: Submission of full research paper (2500–3000 words)

Final Round: 10-minute presentation + 5-minute Q&A with evaluators

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Word limit: 2500–3500 words
- Mandatory Policy Recommendation section (300–400 words) at the end of every paper, containing 2–3 specific, actionable recommendations

- Font: Times New Roman, 12, line spacing 1.5
- Title: Times New Roman, Font Size 12, in CAPITALS, Bold, aligned CENTRE.
- Footnotes: Times New Roman, 10, single-spaced
- Citation style: Bluebook (latest edition)
- File formats: .doc/.docx and .pdf
- Plagiarism above 10% will lead to disqualification
- AI above 10% will lead to disqualification
- Papers must be original and unpublished
- Co-authorship: maximum two authors per paper

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

- Maximum 15 minutes presentation
- Followed by 5 minutes Q&A

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Research Depth
- Originality
- Analysis & Critical Thinking
- Presentation Quality
- Relevance to Theme
- Citations & Methodology



TENTATIVE TIMELINE

Registration & Abstract Submission Opens	9th September, 2026
Last Date for Abstract Submission	14th September, 2026
Shortlist Announcement	16th September, 2026
Full Paper submission	30th September, 2026
Presentations	10th and 11th October, 2026

REGISTRATION FEE

	Without Accommodation	With Accommodation (Two Days)
Academicians/Advocates (Single authorship)	INR 2500/-	INR 3500/-
Academicians/Advocates (Co-authorship)	INR 4500/-	INR 6500/-
Research Scholars (Single authorship)	INR 2000/-	INR 3000/-
Research Scholars (Co-authorship)	INR 3500/-	INR 5500/-
Students (Single authorship)	INR 1500/-	INR 2500/-
Students (Co-authorship)	INR 2500/-	INR 4500/-
Rs. 1000 (preliminary round registration fees)		

REWARDS

WINNER

₹ 20,000 + Certificate of Merit

RUNNER-UP

₹ 10,000 + Certificate of Merit

Selected papers from the competition will be compiled and published in a book volume bearing an ISBN, as part of the Legal Aid Cell's flagship edition of Legal Aid Review – NYAYA: A Legal Aid Review, Volume I – Digital Justice and Inclusion.

APP DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION

THEME: "Technology for Accessible Legal Aid and Digital Justice"

SUGGESTED CONCEPT DIRECTIONS

(Participants may choose any related idea)

- Mobile legal aid helpdesks for rural citizens
- Chat-based legal guidance tools
- Platforms connecting lawyers with beneficiaries
- E-complaint and grievance tracking tools
- Apps supporting Online Dispute Resolution
- Digital portals for awareness on legal rights
- Accessibility tools (language-friendly / voice-supported interfaces)
- Community-support portals for marginalized groups

Participants may propose innovative topics aligned with the broader justice-technology framework.

COMPETITION FORMAT

Preliminary Round:

- Concept note
- Wireframes / mock-ups

Final Round (At Conclave):

- 15-minute live demonstration
- 10-minute Q&A with panel

Functionality, usability, and social impact take center stage.

TECHNICAL & SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Teams may use any programming framework or low-code tools or AI
- Prototype or working demo mandatory (no purely theoretical entries)
- Include user journey explanation
- Clearly define:
 - Concept Note (PDF)
 - legal purpose
 - expected benefits
- Submit in Drive link with:
 - Concept Note (PDF)
 - Screens / mockups / prototype link
 - Short usage manual

Original work only — plagiarism or prebuilt templates without modification will be disqualified.

PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

- Explain the problem statement clearly
- Demonstrate how the user interacts with the app
- Highlight inclusivity and accessibility
- Keep slides simple — focus on demo

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Innovation
- User Interface / Experience
- Technical Feasibility
- Impact on Legal Aid Delivery
- Scalability
- Presentation & Demo



TIMELINE

Registration & Abstract Submission Opens	9th September, 2026
Last Date for for App Concept Submission	13th September, 2026
Shortlist Announcement	14th September, 2026
Last Date for Submission	30th September, 2026
Live Demonstration	10th and 11th October, 2026

REGISTRATION FEE

	Without Accommodation	With Accommodation
Single person	INR 5000/-	INR 6000/-
Two members	INR 9000/-	INR 11000/-
Three members	INR 14000/-	INR 17000/-
Rs. 3000 (preliminary round registration fees)		

REWARDS

WINNER

₹ 1,00,000 + Certificate of Merit

RUNNER-UP

₹ 50,000 + Certificate of Merit

SOCIO-LEGAL CHALLENGE

The Socio-Legal Challenge requires teams to identify a real socio-legal problem within a 250 km radius of their institution and design a practical, structured intervention plan to address it — with a strong emphasis on digital tools and accessible justice. The submission must be based on the empirical research done by the team.

Teams will:

- Identify a socio-legal problem in their region (within 250 km)
- Study the affected community and stakeholders
- Analyze the legal framework and barriers to justice
- Propose a feasible intervention plan, highlighting how technology or digital tools can improve outreach, awareness, and resolution
- Design an implementation roadmap that legal aid clinics or institutions could realistically adopt

COMPETITION FORMAT

Preliminary Round — Concept Note highlighting the problem

On selection of the Concept Note, a detailed report is to be submitted

A detailed report should include:

- Background of the issue
- Problem statement and relevance
- Data collected and its interpretation
- Community/Stakeholder analysis
- Existing legal remedies and challenges
- Proposed intervention (with digital components)

Final Round — Presentation

- 15-minute structured presentation
- 5-minute Q&A with the judges

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Word limit: 3000–4000 words
- Font: Times New Roman, 12 | Spacing 1.5
- Citation style: Bluebook (21st edition)
- Figures, tables, and field photos may be included
- Work must be original and field-informed

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Problem Identification
- Depth of Analysis
- Research Quality
- Legal Framework Understanding
- Innovation in Solution
- Execution & Implementation Plan
- Role of Legal Aid Clinics

TEAM STRUCTURE

- Two members per team are allowed to present the research, if selected for the final round
- The team would consist of two senior researchers and ten junior researchers maximum

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

Registration & Submission Window Opens	9th September, 2026
Last Date for Preliminary Submission of Concept Note	13th September, 2026
Shortlist Announcement	15th September, 2026
Last Date for Submission	02nd October, 2026
Live Demonstration	10th and 11th October, 2026

REGISTRATION FEE

	Without Accommodation	With Accommodation
Single person	INR 2500/-	INR 3500/-
Two members	INR 3500/-	INR 5500/-
Rs. 1500 (preliminary round registration fees)		

REWARDS

WINNER

₹ 20,000 + Certificate of Merit

RUNNER-UP

₹ 10,000 + Certificate of Merit

PIL DRAFTING COMPETITION

COMPETITION FORMAT

Single Round — PIL Draft Submission Only

Participants submit a complete PIL in proper court format, including all annexures and prayers.

- Single Round — PIL Draft Submission Only
- Participants submit a complete PIL in proper court format, including all annexures and prayers.
- Individual or co-author teams (max 2 members)
- DRAFTING GUIDELINES
- Follow Supreme Court / High Court PIL format
- Language: English
- Font: Times New Roman — 12 | Line spacing 1.5
- Footnotes: 10 pt, single-spaced
- File formats: .doc/.docx + .pdf
- Max length (excluding annexures): 12–15 pages
- Attach relevant laws, notifications, or credible reports as annexures
- Maintain anonymity — no names or institutional identifiers in the draft

Plagiarism will result in disqualification.

WHAT JUDGES WILL ASSESS

- Legal Research
- Drafting Quality & Clarity
- Understanding of PIL Jurisprudence
- Public Interest Element
- Structure of Reliefs & Prayers
- Practicality & Constitutional Soundness

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

Registration and Submission Window Opens	9th September, 2026
Last Date for Submission	25th September, 2026

REGISTRATION FEE

	Without Accommodation	With Accommodation
Single person	INR 3000/-	INR 4000/-
Two members	INR 5500/-	INR 7500/-
Rs. 1000 (preliminary round registration fees)		

REWARDS

WINNER

₹ 20,000 + Certificate of Merit

RUNNER-UP

₹ 10,000 + Certificate of Merit

LOK ADALAT SIMULATION

STRUCTURE OF THE COMPETITION

Teams will be assigned roles:

Each team consists of three members:

- One Neutral Panel Member
- One Counsel
- One Client

Each case session lasts 45 minutes total

The competition includes:

- Preliminary Rounds– A written conciliation plan to be submitted and on selection of which the shortlisted team would be invited on the campus for the final rounds.
- Final Round– The shortlisted teams would be invited to the campus for the competition.

Each round will involve one client–counsel pair from each side and a panel member of another team.

GUIDELINES

- Language: English
- Emphasis on conciliation, not adversarial arguing
- Maintain professional courtroom decorum
- Teams may carry: general notes, confidential case materials, calculators, watches/timers
- No phones, laptops, or tablets allowed during rounds.
- Tech-enabled dispute resolution ideas are encouraged

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Understanding of ADR principles
Negotiation skills
Communication & Listening
Problem-solving approach
Knowledge of Lok Adalat procedures
Professionalism & teamwork
Tech-enabled dispute resolution ideas

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

Registration & Submission Window Opens	09th September, 2026
Last Date for Settlement Draft Submission	25th September, 2026
Shortlist Announcement	27th September, 2026
Final Rounds	10th and 11th October, 2026

REGISTRATION FEE

	Without Accommodation	With Accommodation
Three members	INR 6000/-	INR 9000/-
Rs. 1500 (preliminary round registration fees)		

REWARDS

WINNER

₹ 30,000 + Certificate of Merit

RUNNER-UP

₹ 20,000 + Certificate of Merit

PAYMENT

Registration fees: Check above according to the competition. If selected for the competition then the preliminary fees would be deductible from the final round registration fees

Link for Preliminary Registrations:

REGISTRATION LINK

<https://forms.gle/Q7liSLZEFwUqdKXg7>

Link for Preliminary Submissions:

SUBMISSION LINK

<https://forms.gle/mCV3rDlwUjJzXFL7>

Link for Preliminary Payment:

<https://erp.mpdnl.ac.in/events/eventdetails.php?slug=2b04f1d7168195e>

PATRON-IN-CHIEF



Prof. (Dr.) Manoj K. Sinha
Vice-Chancellor, DNLU, Jabalpur

PATRON



Dr. Praveen Tripathi
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VIEW ON GOOGLE MAPS

